

**CITY COUNCIL BUDGET SESSION  
CITY OF WATERTOWN  
May 13, 2010  
7:00 P.M.**

**MAYOR JEFFREY E. GRAHAM PRESIDING**

**PRESENT:**           **COUNCIL MEMBER JOSEPH M. BUTLER, JR.  
COUNCIL MEMBER TERESA R. MACALUSO  
MAYOR GRAHAM**

**ABSENT:**           **COUNCIL MEMBER ROXANNE M. BURNS  
COUNCIL MEMBER JEFFREY M. SMITH**

**ALSO PRESENT:**   **MARY M. CORRIVEAU, CITY MANAGER**

**City staff present:**   **Battalion Chiefs Dale Herman and Dave Lauchenauer, Police Chief  
Joe Goss, City Comptroller Jim Mills**

Mayor Graham opened the budget session.

**Fire Department**

**Page 105-109 and 245:**

Council reviewed the Fire Department's budget. Both Battalion Chiefs answered questions posed by Council concerning the radio system, dispatch, Firehouse software and the rescue boat procedures.

Mrs. Corriveau explained that the budget recommends the elimination of one vacant firefighter position. One member has been on active duty for the past three years and the department was able to function properly during that time. There has been one retirement and the individual that had been on active duty has returned to the department. The Council was advised that the department is planning on sending two new hires to Montour Falls training, which starts on July 25<sup>th</sup>. This is an 11 week process.

Council Member Butler asked about the number of false alarms and the time and resources spent on them.

Battalion Chief Herman explained that manpower costs remain constant as they would be working at something else if they weren't on the alarm call. However, the costs would be incurred by the vehicles responding to the alarm in fuel and wear and tear on the vehicles.

Battalion Chief Herman will update the data that was previously given to Council concerning false alarms from previous years. He did remark that they have to be careful that in fining someone for a faulty alarm, the individual decides to just remove the alarm so that they are not fined in the future. He also advised that the facility improvements listed on page 245 of the Capital Budget will not be done as the grant was not received. He explained that the roof on the

State Street station had been repaired. However, the one on the Mill Street Station has not been done yet.

In discussing the dispatch system, Battalion Chief Herman explained that the County hopes to be in the new system in June. Jefferson County is the first NYS installation for this vendor.

### **Police Department**

#### **Page 98-104:**

Chief Goss explained that, in an effort to save money, he is not looking at filling a position for one individual who will be retiring and who has been on disability for the past three years and is asking for replacing three cars instead of the normal four.

The prisoner transport van is a retrofit of a 2000 paratransient van which Citibus replaced. This will allow all the prisoners, both male and female, to be brought up to City Hall for arraignment at the same time, thus reducing man-hours spent transporting prisoners.

Council was advised that the City pays 18/1% of the maintenance for the PSB, since we occupy 18.1% of the facility. The City is under contract with the County until 2014. Mrs. Corriveau commented that over the life of the contract, the City will have paid \$5.2 million to the County.

Discussion centered on what would happen when the contract finished in 2014. Everyone agreed that the City needs to make some arrangements to get the department into another facility, closer to downtown and the neighborhoods.

Mrs. Corriveau explained that there is a process for the Army Reserve Center being sold. There is a priority list on which homeless housing is number one on the federal government's listing. While state and local municipalities are also high on the list, Council would need to make a decision as to whether or not to proceed with this option. Council will be touring the facility in the future.

Chief Goss explained that the only employees that take vehicles home are himself, Captain Comins, Lt. Derrigo and the On Call Detective (which rotates every few days). He explained that the On Call Detective doesn't always take a city vehicle home.

Council Member Macaluso remarked that she has no problem with a vehicle being taken home, if they reside in the City. However, she does object to the vehicle being driven back and forth to Adams each work day.

Chief Goss explained that when the Lieutenant is called in, he is in radio communications as soon as he gets in the car.

Mrs. Corriveau remarked that she believes that this practice is a benefit for the department.

Mayor Graham commented that this practice is not something afforded to the rest of us in our particular lines of work. He said that this is something Council should look at in the future.

Chief Goss responded that some of the other police agencies give vehicles to all the detectives.

Chief Goss reviewed the SRO and DARE positions and the success that both have obtained in working with the youth in the community.

John Montrois and Jason Badalato will be asked to come to a meeting to share their success stories with Council.

Chief Goss advised that they will be holding a police academy this fall. Agencies from Fulton, Dewitt and Oswego have asked to attend.

### **Summer Rec Programs**

Council Member Butler remarked that some people thought that the playgrounds were going to be closed. This was never the case. He asked about the age limits for the programs.

Mrs. Corriveau advised that this is not supposed to be a summer babysitting service. She also advised that Mr. St. Croix has been in contact with her about offering a program at the Northside pool.

### **Aviary Tour**

Council discussed the tour and the fact that there is potential for the building and it would be shortsighted to tear it down. They asked for more information and asked for costs for rehab of the structure.

Mayor Graham commented that it should have been maintained over the years.

Council Member Butler remarked that the entrances need to be enhanced.

Council Member Macaluso commented that it needs better lighting.

Council Member Butler remarked that there are always volunteer efforts up there and we should pursue that avenue for this type of project.

### **Revenues and Capital Budget**

Council agreed that with two members absent, they should wait to discuss these topics.

Mr. Mills commented that he would hope Council will spend time on the capital projects and how they are going to be funded during the budget sessions.

Budget session ended at 9:20 pm.

*Donna M. Dutton*  
City Clerk